

補充欄

いずれかの欄の大きさが足りない場合

第 V 欄の続き

性を有さない。

文献3の段落【0012】には、「装置は滴定プレートから下方に向かって延びている個々のサンプル容器を受容するために寸法付けられかつ配置されている。各スリーブは滴定プレートに補強ウェブを収容するためにスロット16が付けられ、そしてスリーブがそれらによって形成される材料の固有の弾性と協力して、指部17が板ばねとして作用しかつそれに挿入されたサンプル容器18を実際に把持するようにスリーブによって画成され得る。」と記載されている。

また、段落【0017】には、「図7はスリーブ14がその外面に直接取着されたパターン化された加熱箔42を有する代替の実施例を示している。導管39はかかる箔に電氣的に相互に接続されている。図8はスリーブ14aそれ自体が導管39を介しての付勢がスリーブを加熱要素として役立たせる抵抗材料から形成される代替物を示している。図9は加熱要素43がサンプル容器18a上に直接被覆されかつスリーブ14bが被覆へ電気を導くのに役立っている実施例を示している。」と記載されている。

請求の範囲7, 12, 18

文献1-3は、当該技術分野における一般的技術水準を示す文献であって、請求の範囲7, 12, 18に係る発明は、国際調査報告で引用されたいずれの文献にも記載されておらず、当業者にとって自明のものではない。

10/578763

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Amendment (under section 34)

(Article 11 of Japanese Law Concerning the International Application of the Patent

Cooperation Treaty and Related Matters)

To: Patent Examiner

1. International Application No. PCT/JP2004/009053

2. Applicant

Name UNIVERSAL BIO RESEARCH CO., LTD.

Address 88, Kamihongou, Matsudo-shi, Chiba 271-0064, Japan

Nationality JAPAN

Address JAPAN

3. Agent

Name (7519) Patent Attorney DOBASHI Akira

Address 6F, No.12 Mori Building, 17-3, Toranomom 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo
105-0001, Japan

4. Object of Amendment Claims

5. Contents of Amendment

(1) Claim 1 is amended as follows:

"1. (Amended) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of said liquid-containing units, wherein: said thermostat container has a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing unit inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container; said thermostat container comprises an aperture section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and

the outside and:

said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film.”

(2) Claim 2 is amended as follows:

“2. (Amendment) A reagent container according to claim 1, wherein said thermostat container comprises ~~an aperture section and/or~~ a mouth section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside, and which is closed by said liquid-containing unit or a lid during heating or cooling.”

(3) The words of Claim 6, “claim 1 through 5” are replaced with words, “claim 1 through claim 5”.

(4) Claim 7 is cancelled.

(5) Claim 13 is amended as follows:

“13. (Amendment) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat member which forms all or part of a wall of at least one of said liquid-containing units, and said thermostat member heats or cools the inside of said liquid-containing unit in accordance with an external signal, wherein

said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame.”

(6) Claim 18 is cancelled.

6, List of documents

Pages 22, 23 of Claims

Written response

To: Patent Examiner

1. International Application No. PCT/JP2004/009053

2. Applicant

Name UNIVERSAL BIO RESEARCH CO., LTD.

Address 88, Kamihongou, Matsudo-shi, Chiba 271-0064, Japan

Nationality JAPAN

Address JAPAN

3. Agent

Name (7519) Patent Attorney DOBASHI Akira

Address 6F, No.12 Mori Building, 17-3, Toranomom 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo
105-0001, Japan

4. Date of notification 18th January 2005 (mailing date)

5. Contents of response

(1) According to the International Searching Authority, it is indicated that claim 1 through claim 6, claim 8 through claim 11, and claim 13 through claim 17 in the concerned application cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step, based on the cited document 1 (JP2003-107094A, Toshiba Corp.), the cited document 2 (JP11-153603A, Hitachi, Ltd.), and the cited document 3 (JP2001-518383A, Applied Chemical & Engineering Systems, Inc.). On the other hand, it is indicated that claim 7, claim 12, and claim 18 can be considered novel, can be considered to involve an inventive step, and can be considered to have an industrial applicability.

(2) Grounds for amendment

The ground for inserting “the thermostat container comprises an aperture section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside and; said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film” in claim 1 is based on the description of claim 2 “an aperture section and/or a mouth section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside” and the description of claim 7 “said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film”.

The ground for inserting “and which is closed by said liquid-containing unit or a lid during heating or cooling” in claim 2 is based on the description of the specification page 7, lines 22 and 23 (English translation), “the mouth section is used while it is closed by a lid or the liquid-containing unit or the like during heating or cooling”.

The ground for inserting “said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame” in claim 13 is based on the description of the of claim 18 “said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame”.

(3) Regarding novelty and inventive step

As indicated by the examiner, claim 7, claim 12, and claim 18 in the original

claims are not disclosed in any document, nor obvious to a person skilled in the art. Therefore, it is considered that independent claim 1 after amendment into which the description in these claims is inserted, claim 2 through claim 11 dependent thereon, independent claim 12 of the claim, and independent claim 13 after amendment, and claim 14 through claim 17 dependent thereon, are novel, and involve an inventive step.

A request is thus made for preparation of an international preliminary examination report to the effect that claim 1 through claim 6, and claim 8 through claim 17 are novel, involve an inventive step, and have an industrial applicability.

End

1. (Amended) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of said liquid-containing units, wherein: said thermostat container has a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing unit inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container;

5 said thermostat container comprises an aperture section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside and;

 said aperture section is sealed by a peelable or perforable sealing film.

10 2. (Amended) A reagent container according to claim 1, wherein said thermostat container comprises a mouth section which enables the transfer of a substance such as a gas between the inside of said thermostat container and the outside, and which is closed by said liquid-containing unit or a lid during heating or cooling.

3. A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is secured to said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.

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4. A reagent container according to either one of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said thermostat container is removable from said liquid-containing unit surrounded by said thermostat container.

20 5. A reagent container according to any one of claim 2 through claim 4, wherein said cooling agent or heating agent is supplied from outside said thermostat container to the inside through said aperture section and/or mouth section in said thermostat container.

6. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 5, wherein all or some of said liquid-containing units contain a predetermined reagent, and the openings of at least

those liquid-containing units that contain said reagent are sealed with a peelable or perforable sealing film.

7. (Cancelled)

8. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 7, wherein said
5 reagent container comprises a base section, and said liquid-containing units and the thermostat container are provided on said base section so that the openings and/or aperture sections of said liquid-containing units are located at said base section.

9. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 8, wherein said
10 reagent container comprises a plurality of thermostat containers, and each thermostat container is set up to maintain a different temperature.

10. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 9, wherein a
temperature-sensing element having a temperature-sensitive substance which senses the temperature of said thermostat container and visually indicates a change in temperature, is provided on said plurality of thermostat containers, or on the base section in the vicinity
15 thereof.

11. A reagent container according to any one of claim 1 through claim 10, wherein said base section comprises one or more tube fitting sections, into which a liquid-containing unit or a thermostat container can be detachably fitted.

12. A reagent container comprising: a base section, one or more liquid-containing units for
20 containing a reagent;

a thermostat container provided so as to surround at least one of the liquid-containing units;

a heating agent or a cooling agent for heating or cooling said liquid-containing units, provided inside said thermostat container, but outside said liquid-containing unit

surrounded by said thermostat container;

an aperture section which is provided on said base section, and which enables gases to pass between said thermostat container and the outside; and

a sealing film affixed to the top of said base section in a peelable or perforable manner which, with all or some of said liquid-containing units containing a reagent, seals the openings and said aperture sections of at least those liquid-containing units which contain a reagent.

13. (Amended) A reagent container comprising one or more liquid-containing units for containing a reagent, and a thermostat member which forms all or part of a wall of at least one of said liquid-containing units, and said thermostat member heats or cools the inside of said liquid-containing unit in accordance with an external signal, wherein said wall of said liquid-containing unit comprises a frame having a gap, a slot or an aperture, and a film-shaped member or a thin plate is provided so as to cover said gap, slot or aperture in said frame.

14. A reagent container according to claim 13, wherein an internal surface of said wall faces the inside of the liquid-containing unit, an external surface of the wall is outside the liquid-containing unit, and an area between the internal and external surfaces is integrally formed.

15. A reagent container according to either one of claim 13 and claim 14, wherein said thermostat member comprises a conductive member having a predetermined electrical resistance, and said signal is an electromagnetic signal.

16. A reagent container according to any one of claim 13 through claim 15, wherein a contact section which receives electrical signals by contacting a terminal of an electromagnetic supply provided outside the reagent container, is provided in said reagent

container.

17. A reagent container according to any one of claim 13 through claim 16, wherein the conductive member, forms a wall of said liquid-containing unit, covers said wall, is built into said wall, or is attached to said wall.

5 18. (Cancelled)